

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 06225 291600Z
ACTION ABF-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 SS-15 A-01 SIG-03 /033 W
-----005096 291608Z /43

R 291400Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3149
INFO AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR

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STADIS////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS: AGAO
SUBJ: EXPANDED ROLE OF GAO AND GAO VISITS TO SELECTED POSTS

REF: STATE 207030

1. ALTHOUGH EMBASSY RECORDS REFLECT LITTLE GAO ACTIVITY DURING
1977, THREE GAO INSPECTION TEAMS VISITED TURKEY DURING THE
FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1978; THE CONDUCTED:

A. A REVIEW OF SECURITY ASSISTANCE IN TURKEY (THIS COUNTRY
WAS ONE OF 15 COUNTRIES SUBJECT TO THE REVIEW).

B. A COUNTRY COGNIZANCE SURVEY.

C. A REVIEW OF CRIMINAL JURISDICTION OF U.S. MILITARY
ABROAD.

IN ORDER GIVEN ABOVE, THE LENGTH OF STAY IN ANKARA FOR EACH
REVIEW WAS: 4 DAYS, 12 DAYS (PLUS ONE DAY IN ISTANBUL); 5
DAYS. THE RESPECTIVE TEAMS FIELDDED BY GAO FOR THE SAME
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REVIEWS WERE 3 PERSONS; 2 PERSONS AND 2 PERSONS.

2. WITHIN THE RATHER LIMITED EXPERIENCE GAINED IN
TURKEY, IT APPEARS THE GAO TEAMS HAVE BEEN NO LARGER
THAN NEEDED TO COMPLETE THEIR TASKS. IN AT LEAST ONE
REVIEW (SECURITY ASSISTANCE), GAO SUBMITTED, IN
ADVANCE, A SERIES OF QUESTIONS THE TEAM WISHED TO

HAVE ADDRESSED PRIOR TO THEIR ARRIVAL. WHILE WE HAVE NO FURTHER COMMENTS TO MAKE ON THE FREQUENCY OF THESE VISITS PER SE, THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT THAT INCREASING THE NUMBER OF VISITS WILL IMPACT ON POST RESOURCES WHICH WE ADDRESS IN THE NEXT PARAGRAPH.

3. DEMANDS ON POST RESOURCES

SECTIONS AND OFFICERS IN ANKARA WERE POLLED IN JUNE 1978 TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER UNDUE STRAIN WAS BEING PLACED ON THE SECTIONS INVOLVED BY SERVICING GAO TEAMS. GENERALLY, THE RESPONSE WAS THAT SUCH REVIEWS CAN BE HANDLED BY THE OFFICERS AND STAFF OF THE POST. IT IS CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT A POST ENCOUNTERS NUMEROUS HIDDEN OR UNQUANTIFIABLE FACTORS WHEN HOSTING SUCH A TEAM. A TIME SCHEDULE MUST BE PREPARED FOR IN-COUNTRY VISITS; INTERVIEWS WITHIN AND OUTSIDE THE EMBASSY MUST BE ARRANGED; INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP BRIEFINGS ARE HELD; TRAFFIC IS GENERATED; TRANSPORT IS ASSIGNED (IN ALL CASES THE TEAM IS, AT THE MINIMUM, MET AT THE AIRPORT ON THEIR ARRIVAL AND TAKEN TO THE AIRPORT ON DEPARTURE) AND THE GENERAL ROUTINE OF THE POST, AND MORE SPECIFICALLY THE OFFICERS DEALING WITH THE TEAM, IS ALTERED. WHILE THE NEED FOR CONTINUED COOPERATION WITH SUCH TEAMS IS FULLY UNDERSTOOD, THE FOREGOING FACTORS SHOULD NOT BE MINIMIZED IN LIGHT OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE INCREASINGLY LEAN STAFF AVAILABLE TO POSTS FOR DUTIES THAT ARE SOMEWHAT OUTSIDE "NORMAL" RESPONSIBILITIES.

4. REACTION OF HOST COUNTRY AND PERFORMANCE OF TEAMS

HOST COUNTRY OFFICIALS GENERALLY EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING OF THE VISITS MADE BY GAO AND THE GAO TEAMS CANNOT BE FAULTED ON THEIR CONDUCT. IN ONE INSTANCE (THE SECURITY ASSISTANCE REVIEW) REQUESTS WERE MADE FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE VERSIONS OF HOST COUNTRY LAWS. THESE WERE PROVIDED. SHOULD REQUESTS BE MADE FOR LENGTHY DOCUMENTS, NEEDING TRANSLATION, WE WOULD EXPLAIN THE COSTS (IN TIME AND OTHER RESOURCES) AND INQUIRE WHETHER GAO COULD GET ALONG WITHOUT THE REQUESTED DOCUMENT. SUCH INQUIRIES WOULD BE HANDLED, AS IN THE PAST, ON A CASE BY CASE BASIS AND WE WOULD BE GUIDED BY THE GENERAL POLICY ENUMERATED BY THE DEPARTMENT WITHOUT RESORTING TO FIXED, WRITTEN RULES OF CONDUCT.

5. OTHER COMMENTS

THIS POST WOULD APPRECIATE HAVING EARLY, COMPLETE INFORMATION ON PROSPECTIVE GAO VISITS ON A REGULAR

BASIS. PERHAPS IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR S/IG TO GIVE
ADVANCE INFORMATION OF PROPOSED VISITS ON AN INFORMAL
BASIS THROUGH THE RESPECTIVE BUREAU. IT WOULD ALSO
BE OF SOME HELP IF THE GAO TEAMS COULD IMPROVE THEIR
WASHINGTON PREPARATION BEFORE THEY TRAVEL TO THE FIELD.
WE RECOGNIZE THIS MERELY MOVES THE PROBLEM OF
RESOURCE ALLOCATION TO THE DEPARTMENT BUT, AS IS CLEAR
TO US, MANY OF THE TOPICS AND PROBLEMS GAO IS INTERESTED
IN ARE READILY EXPLAINED IN WASHINGTON AND THE VISIT
TO THE FIELD CAN BE UTILIZED FOR CONFIRMATION, NOT
EDUCATION. DILLON

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